

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

FINAL

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Steuben County Jail

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 201 South Wayne

CITY, TOWN

Angola

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Steuben

CODE

151

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Steuben County Commissioners

STREET & NUMBER  
Angola

CITY, TOWN  
Angola

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Indiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE Steuben County Courthouse, Registry, of deeds, Vol. II P. 15 & P. 43  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER  
Public Square

CITY, TOWN  
Angola

STATE  
Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
NONE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Steuben County Jail was the brick and concrete inspiration of Ohio architects Gibbs and Moser. Built in 1877, the 2 1/2 story structure has an irregular main wing with a rectangular prison wing extending from the back of the building. Light rust colored and black brick were used in between concrete coursing. A sculpted representation of a sun with the completion date inscribed, adorns the entrance wall. The roofs of the back wing and two recent additions (the enclosure of a north porch in 1961 and a large though unobtrusive south wing in 1971) are flat while the main structure has a slate mansard roof. The main wing also contains an elaborate tower with a pyramidal roof and an elaborate cupola and weathervane on top. There are four brick chimneys at each corner of the main wing. The hooded dormer windows are sculpted in the Second Empire mode. Elaborate brickwork forms the cornices. The windows are double hung with a flush fan and concrete quoining surrounding them. A Victorian style grill work covers the front entrance stoop which leads to the simple door with a segmented architrave. The interior has handsome wood mouldings in the sheriff's quarters while the jail is plain yet very functional and comfortable.

Aside from the two additions mentioned which mar but do not obstruct the unity of the original structure, the jail has changed very little. It continues to serve as an effective penal institution with an architectural charm not widely seen in buildings of this use.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Gibbs and Moser

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

September 6, 1876 proposals for a new county jail were discussed by the Steuben County Board. A few months later, Gibbs and Moser, Ohio architects, had been selected to design the structure which was to include the jail, residence for the County sheriff and the sheriff's offices. The construction firm of Litzenberger and Zoller of Fort Wayne finished the building on schedule in 1877 for the sum of \$21,144.13.

Much architectural interest is derived from the anomalous nature of the structure, (This is with out reference to the two functional additions; in 1961 a north porch was enclosed, and in 1971 an addition was made on the south side.) Gibbs and Moser employed pale rust brick, and white painted wood for trimmings, in a manner that defies architectural classification. The tower, cupola and weathervane are truly a delight.

From a historical perspective, the Steuben County Jail was designed with a humane touch not typical of penal institutions in the 1870's. The cells have not been changed up to this very day and local authorities report, they serve their purpose with rarely a complaint.

The adverse effects of a monotonous poorly planned jail have only recently become a public concern. It is for this reason that far sighted humane planning coupled with an attractive well constructed design gives the Steuben County Jail great significance.

It has also become a significant landmark in the community of Angola and serves with the courthouse as a focal point in the downtown area.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- I. History of Northeast Indiana - Vol. I, The Lewis Publishing Co. Chicago & New York, 1920 Page 183
- II. Morley Harvey - History of Steuben County, H. Morley Publisher, 1955 Angola, Indiana
- III. The County Board Reports - The Steuben Republican, Jan. 17, 1877
- IV. Commissioner Reports - Vol VII Pgs. 446, 451, 454, 456, 478, 489, 505, 453. Steuben Co. Courthouse VIII Pgs. 36, 43 and 45.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	6,6	6,6,0	4,6	1,1	8,4,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Janis Kepler Layman (Mrs. Ralph E.)  
Ina Hubbell (Mrs. James)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

DAR

July 7, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Steinmont, (Layman)  
804 N. Wayne (Hubbell)

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Hamilton, Indiana 46742 (Layman)  
Angola, Indiana 46703 (Hubbell)

STATE

Indiana

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

*Joseph Cloud* S.H.P.O.

DATE

7/11-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER